

Hobbies

Chicago coin show deals in foreign money

By Roger Boye

At least 100 coin dealers from 11 countries and a set of exceedingly rare ancient coins will be in Chicago this week for the Chicago International Coin Fair, the city's largest annual show devoted to foreign money.

Dealers will sell their wares from 10 a. m. to 7 p. m. on Thursday, 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. Friday, and 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. Saturday in the Regency Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 151 E. Wacker Drive. Coins and other money-related items on sale will range in value from a few cents to thousands of dollars each.

The set of Roman gold coins—given as a gift to President Chester A. Arthur in the 1880s and now valued at \$250,000—will make its public debut at the show. Michigan dealer George Beach recently discovered the rarities, and he has since sold the coins to two other dealers who will display them at CICF.

This year's CICF educational forum features talks by Stanley Flegler of Michigan State University and coin dealer Arnold Saslow concerning scientific tests conducted on the Black Sea hoard of ancient coins discovered two years ago. The program begins at 1:30 p. m. Friday in the New Orleans Room of the hotel's West Tower.

Several hobby organizations—including the Chicago Coin Club and the Polish American Numismatic Association—will meet in the hotel on Saturday in conjunction with the fair. A listing of times and rooms will be available at the CICF registration desk.

Chicago hobbyist Carl F. Wolf will conduct a program for collectors ages 17 and younger beginning at 10 a. m. Saturday in the Buckingham Room. In past years similar meetings have ended with scores of youngsters carrying free books and other items donated by Chicago-area coin buffs.

Ponterio & Associates of San Diego will auction hundreds of world coins, with sessions beginning at 7 p. m. Thursday and Friday and at 9 a. m. Saturday in the Acapulco Room. Also, representatives of Coin World and Krause Publications will distribute free samples of their periodicals from tables on the bourse floor in the Regency Ballroom.

Admission is free to all activities of the 15th annual CICF, and visitors are invited to any session or meeting. Organizers predict that 3,000 collectors will attend the show.